

Mr. President, thank you, sir. We need you, with the stroke of a pen, please reinforce the Border Patrol. Help our local law enforcement authorities defend the peace and prosperity of the United States or our way of life may, indeed, change.

Thank you, Mr. President. The American people are way beyond the tipping point in frustration and outrage at the unprotected borders and this flood of illegal immigration, and we are very grateful to you, sir, for stepping up to protect our borders.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Members are advised to address their comments to the Chair and not to the President.

A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I want the previous speaker to know that I think I can get a Members tour for both of us to the White House if my friend wants to join me sometime. I will get back with the gentleman from Washington on that.

I want to say in Iraq this weekend, it was a historic and very significant day: over 60 percent voter turnout to adopt a new constitution; less violence than ever before on the election compared to June; greater participation by everybody, including the Sunni minority.

It is my hope that the constitution will pass and that in December we will have an election and the new government will take hold. And under that new government, their troops, of which we have trained 177,000, can start taking a bigger role in the war and then our troops can step back and draw down.

Last weekend was very significant. It is too bad the press is begrudgingly only covering good stuff when it comes to Iraq, but do not let the day go by without realizing its significance. A great election, great participation, less violence, a significant step towards democracy.

CANCELLATION OF LIBERAL RADIO SHARE ON AN UNBAL- ANCED ARMED FORCES NET- WORK

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, today our troops abroad have very few choices when they turn on their radios. If they are looking for political talk on the Armed Forces Network, all they get is the conservative spin machine from Rush Limbaugh. That was all supposed to change on Monday when lib-

eral radio talk show host Ed Schultz's show was set to debut.

However, 15 minutes before our soldiers could finally hear a differing opinion, the Pentagon abruptly cancelled the show. Ed Schultz's producer received a call from a Pentagon official informing him that the show would not be debuting on AFN.

Why exactly is the Pentagon keeping our troops from hearing differing opinions? Could it be that the Pentagon is a little embarrassed by the staging of a Presidential teleconference last week? We see the same staffer that informed Schultz of his cancellation was the same woman seen coaching American troops last week in what was supposed to be an unscripted conversation with our troops in Iraq. Schultz was critical of that stage show.

President Bush says our troops are fighting to bring democracy to Iraq. It would be nice if our own troops could exercise some of that freedom.

ANTI-TERRORISM INSURANCE

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, our leaders are telling us on both sides of the aisle that terrorism is here to stay. If they believe that, if they know that, then why are we not preparing for it?

Anti-terrorism insurance passed this House after 9/11 and put this country on a stronger economic foundation, and it is set to expire this January. Businesses in my district are telling me that if their policies have expired since September, they cannot find coverage anywhere in the United States of America; they are seeking insurance in England.

Part of homeland security, part of being prepared or not is putting our economic policy in shape. And an important part of homeland security is anti-terrorism insurance. It is important to the economic foundation of this country. It is important to combating terrorism. We need to extend it. We need to do it now. The program expires in January.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 554.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FOOD CONSUMPTION ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 494 and rule

XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 554.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 554) to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity, with Mrs. MILLER of Michigan in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 554, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005.

The food service industry employs some 12 million people, making it the Nation's largest private sector employer. This vital sector of our economy has recently come under attack by lawsuits alleging it should pay monetary damages based upon legal theories holding it liable for the overconsumption of its products.

H.R. 554, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act, would correct this disturbing trend. Introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER), this legislation would generally prohibit frivolous obesity- or weight gain-related claims against the food industry. It would, however, allow obesity-related claims to go forward in several circumstances, including cases in which a State or Federal law was broken and as a result a person suffered harm. Under H.R. 554, cases could go forward in which a company violates an expressed contract or warranty.

Also, because H.R. 554 applies only to claims based on weight gain or obesity, lawsuits could still proceed if, for example, someone gets sick from consuming tainted food.

This legislation passed the House of Representatives during the 108th Congress in the form of H.R. 339 with a large bipartisan vote of 276 to 139.

According to a recent Gallup Poll, "Nearly nine in 10 Americans oppose holding the fast-food industry legally responsible for diet-related health problems of people who eat that kind of food on a regular basis . . . those who